

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153446

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT OF SOUL 4655 TO SECSTATE INFO TOKYO TEHRAN JUN 26

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4655

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KN IR ABRAD

SUBJECT: ROKG ATTEMPTING TO THWART IRANIAN-NORTH KOREAN DEAL

REF: A STATE 148157 B STATE 145922

1. MOFA ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS KIM TONG-HWI INFORMED POL COUNS JUNE 26 OF REPORTS THAT ROKG HAD FROM ITS EMBASSY IN TEHRAN REGARDING IRANINA PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREA.

2. ACCORDING TO ROKG EMBASSY INFORMATION, IRAN AND NORTH KOREA HAD SIGNED AN AGREEMENT ACCORDING TO WHICH TEHRAN WILL BUY \$700 MILLION WORTH OF NORTH KOREAN MERCHANDISE. MOFA ASSUMES DEAL COVERS AT CONFIDENTIAL

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LEAST A FIVE YEAR PERIOD; IT IS UNAWARE OF THE NATURE

OF THE GOODS INVOLVED. AS PART OF THE DEAL, THE
IRANIANS HAVE AGREED TO GIVE PYONGYANG AN ADVANCE
CASH PAYMENT OF \$200 MILLION.

3. KIM SAID THAT DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER NAM TOK-U
WHO IS NOW IN PARIS WOULD VISIT TEHRAN JULY 4-9 IN
AN EFFORT TO HAVE DEAL CANCELLED OR, FAILING THAT,
TO CANCEL OR AT LEAST DELAY ADVANCE PAYMENT. KIM
SPECULATED THAT ROK WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE ABLE
TO SUPPLY IRAN WITH ANYTHING WHICH NORTH KOREA WAS
OFFERING AND WOULD NOT REQUIRE ANY ADVANCE TO DO SO.
HE NOTED THAT ANY ADVANCE PAYMENT TO NORTH KOREA
WOULD HELP BAIL PYONGYANG OUT OF ITS FOREIGN DEBT
DIFFICULTIES.

4. KIM SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ANY DETAILS
CONCERNING DEAL WHICH USG HAS BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP
AND ANY SUGGESTIONS ON STEPS WHICH ROKG AND DEPUTY
MINISTER NAM MIGHT TAKE TO THWART ITS IMPLEMENTATION.
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH DEPARTMENT OR
EMBASSY TEHRAN CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE TO PASS TO ROKG.
SNIEDER
UNQTE INGERSOLL

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